

Southern section of Gordons Pond Trail closed for repairs due to damage caused by recent storm

DOVER – High winds and tides associated with the Jan. 22-24 weekend storm that struck Delaware's coast severely damaged a 2.5-mile section of the Gordons Pond Trail in Cape Henlopen State Park, forcing an extended closure of the trail's southern stretch, parks officials said today. The storm rendered the part of Gordons Pond Trail, south of the end of the elevated boardwalk, unsafe for public use and closed for repairs, and unlikely to reopen until spring.

"The wind and waves raised the water level in Gordons Pond to the point of overflowing, and much of the stone used to build the trail was washed away," said Ray Bivens, director, DNREC Division of Parks and Recreation. "In many places the weed barrier fabric has been exposed and damaged. The most severe damage is in the southern portion of the trail, along the berm separating the Pond from the marsh along the canal. We're hopeful that repairs will be completed by early spring."

A three-quarter mile section of the trail – from the Herring Point parking area to the boardwalk – will remain open.

The Gordons Pond Trail was completed in 2014 and consists of a 2.5 mile stone-dust trail and a half mile section of elevated boardwalk. The trail brings bikers and hikers through a previously little-known area of Cape Henlopen State Park. With repairs made and the final section of the trail completed, the Gordons Pond Trail will be part of an 18 mile circuit that includes the Junction & Breakwater Trail and surface roads in Lewes and Rehoboth Beach.

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